Oral Questions

given by the Zambian government. I am still not satisfied with those explanations. I have also reported to the House fully on the action taken by President Kaunda. I have tabled in the House, with the permission of Mr. Sinclair, the letter written by the president to him. I do not know what it is I have withheld from the House, but if the hon. gentleman could put another question to me on another day, or today, I will try to answer.

Mr. Hales: I would like to ask the minister if the envoy has returned, if he has reported, and why has his report not been made public to the House, since we are entitled to have it, and also to the families of these girls?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I said in the House of Commons that I asked the envoy to go to Zambia to explain to the President of Zambia the depth of Canada's concern in this matter. He did so, and that was the extent of his task.

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR RADAR MONITORING SERVICE AT HALIFAX AND OTHER EAST COAST PORTS IN LIGHT OF RECENT SHIP COLLISION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious collision which occurred last Thursday in Halifax harbour between HMCS Margaree, a Canadian forces helicopter destroyer, and the Canadian Fisheries Vessel Cygnus, is the minister giving any consideration to establishing a shore-based, minimum 50-mile radius radar monitoring service at Halifax and other busy Atlantic coast ports to provide marine traffic control similar to air traffic control in order to prevent, as much as possible, this type of accident occurring in the future?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am waiting for a report on this accident. After receiving it perhaps I may consider at the same time the proposal made by the hon. gentleman.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

WESTERN CONFERENCE—CONCERN OF WESTERN PREMIERS OVER REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE—REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION OF MINISTER FROM CONFERENCE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister which I think was directed to the Acting Prime Minister a few moments ago. Has he received a telegram from the four western premiers expressing concern about remarks attributed to the Minister of Justice with regard to the upcoming western premiers' conference?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I see no record of such a telegram in my own notes. I certainly will inquire and see if such a telegram has arrived on my desk before reaching the desk of the Leader of the Opposition.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Stanfield: In order to make certain that the conference gets off to a good start, will the Prime Minister assure the western premiers that the Minister of Justice was not really speaking for the government in any way and that he will be excluded from the conference?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this western conference was a federal initiative. It is being co-ordinated essentially by the Minister of Justice. I in no way would contemplate his exclusion. I will inquire into the grievance that the Leader of the Opposition seems to be echoing. I cannot conceive that it would be a serious one.

ENERGY

AVAILABILITY OF STUDIES BEFORE SUMMER RECESS— POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE OR HOLDING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of his statement last Friday in the House that he expects the energy studies to be available by the last week of June, is he in a position to assure the House that the studies will become available before the parliamentary recess?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that my expectation is that they will be ready the last week of this month. If the House decides to adjourn before that, of course I cannot give an undertaking.

Mr. Harding: In view of the urgency of the whole energy problem, does the minister plan on public hearings throughout Canada on the matter and, if so, on what basis? Will these studies also be referred to the appropriate standing committee so that it may deal with them both before and during the parliamentary recess?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, dealing with the last part of the question first, I think they would provide a better order of reference for consideration than the current reference we have, so I would seek from the House leader a reference which would enable the committee to carry on the studies. I would also seek from him the opportunity for the committee to carry on its work during the parliamentary recess, perhaps with the opportunity for the committee to travel if it so wishes. With regard to the first part of the question, the problem is not easily solved of providing an effective forum so that all people can participate directly. I have not the exact details as to how these discussions would take place, but if the hon. member and others have suggestions I would be glad to hear from them in this regard.